United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
NASS

POTATO ESTIMATING PROGRAM

July 2001

The estimating program for potatoes includes a number of estimates that span more than a year. Nationally, potatoes are estimated by seasonal groups: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Washington is one of the 7 major fall potato states. Stocks estimates are made for the 15 major states that account for about 97 percent of the fall production total. Washington is the number 2 producing state of fall potatoes and accounts for about one-fifth of the nation's total.

Estimates for potatoes are made using information collected from producers, potato processors, and other agri-businesses. Data from growers are used for acreage, yield, production, and stock estimates. Data obtained from the potato processors are used for the potato processing report, stocks, prices, and cold storage. Secondary information is used as check data, such as marketings and grower disposition surveys. Acreage estimates are set with a combination of survey indications that come from both a probability survey and a non-probability survey. A general description of a probability sample is where each operation in the state has a chance of being selected and a response is necessary for each operation selected. Potato growers are surveyed for acreage planted as of June 1, and the estimates are released in the July Crop Production Report. The next estimates of planted and harvested acreage are released in the November Crop Report. A grower survey is done in conjunction with the fall acreage and production survey in November and any revisions to the June estimate are based on information obtained from this survey. The final end-of-season estimates are published in the Potato Report released in late September the following year.

Yield estimates for fall potatoes are forecast as of November 1, December 1, and January 1. Washington has the highest average yield in the United States. Survey indications from potato producers are used in conjunction with an objective yield survey. The objective yield survey is relatively easy to understand in principle. Two units are laid out for each sample. Row widths and plant counts are taken in a 20 foot section of the row to establish an estimate of plants per acre. Three hills are dug from each unit and the potatoes are weighed. The average weight per hill multiplied by the plant population produces an indication of gross yield. A post-harvest sample is used to estimate the quantity of potatoes left in the field after harvest and is deducted from the gross yield to determine the net yield, the actual quantity taken from the field. Although the procedure is straightforward, the key is randomly placing the samples in fields so that the 200 samples selected in Washington will represent the state's acreage accurately. Information regarding varieties is also collected during the potato objective yield survey. In Washington, Russet Burbank is the most popular variety, as it can be used for both processing and fresh market.

Harvest begins in July for the early varieties of Shepody and Norkotah. Harvest of the Russet Burbanks usually lasts through the middle of November. Monthly stocks estimates begin on December 1 and run through June 1. Potato storage operators are surveyed beginning December 1 and this data, along with disposition information collected from processors, is used to set the December 1 stocks estimate. Idaho, Washington, and Oregon complete a Tri-State balance sheet for stocks each month from December 1 through June 1, where inshipments, outshipments, and the total disposition of potatoes within each state and the Tri-State area are tabulated. Processing data are published from October 1 through June 1. Due to disclosure problems, processing data for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are published as two estimates. Idaho and Malheur County Oregon, and Washington and Other Counties Oregon. Potato stocks reports, which also include processing, acreage, and production estimates, are published from December 1 through June 1, at both the national and states levels. Each year, a survey on disposition of the previous year's crop is done during June in conjunction with the acreage survey for the current year's planted acreage. The annual disposition and processing estimates are published at the end of September in the Annual Potato Report.

For the most current Washington State releases you can visit our web site at www.nass.usda.gov/wa or call (800)435-5883

State Rankings, 1999 Crop Year
Top Ten States and the United States, Based on Production

State	Rank	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
		1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.
Idaho	1	415.0	413.0	369.0	152,320
Washington	**2**	**180.0**	**180.0**	**600.0**	**108,000**
Wisconsin	3	86.0	84.5	400.0	33,800
Oregon	4	57.0	56.5	543.0	30,683
Colorado	5	83.9	83.5	367.0	30,658
North Dakota	6	124.0	110.0	245.0	26,950
Minnesota	7	66.0	59.0	360.0	21,240
Maine	8	64.0	64.0	280.0	17,920
California	9	43.0	43.0	380.0	16,355
Michigan	10	49.0	47.5	315.0	14,963
United States		**1,387.3**	**1,332.6**	**382.0**	**23,409,130**

* *Preliminary.*

Potatoes: Acreage, Yield, & Production, By Counties, Washington, 1998-99

County and District	1998				1999			
	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production
	Acres		Cwt.		Acres		Cwt.	
COUNTY								
Adams	20,000	20,000	570	11,400,000	**19,000**	**19,000**	**610**	**11,585,000**
Benton	28,500	28,500	630	17,962,000	**31,400**	**31,400**	**605**	**19,007,000**
Franklin	43,000	43,000	550	23,650,000	**42,000**	**42,000**	**545**	**22,885,000**
Grant	43,000	43,000	595	25,600,000	**44,000**	**44,000**	**590**	**25,955,000**
Kittitas	600	600	370	222,000	**600**	**600**	**360**	**216,000**
Klickitat	1,400	1,400	590	826,000	**1,800**	**1,800**	**550**	**990,000**
Lincoln	3,000	3,000	510	1,530,000	**5,000**	**5,000**	**555**	**2,775,000**
Skagit	8,400	8,400	315	2,645,000	**8,200**	**8,200**	**305**	**2,500,000**
Walla Walla	11,500	11,500	630	7,250,000	**12,000**	**12,000**	**600**	**7,200,000**
Whatcom	2,400	2,400	340	815,000	**2,500**	**2,500**	**310**	**775,000**
Yakima	2,000	2,000	415	830,000	**2,200**	**2,200**	**385**	**847,000**
Other Counties	1,200	1,200	413	495,000	**1,300**	**1,300**	**358**	**465,000**
DISTRICT								
West	11,100	11,100	320	3,550,000	**11,200**	**11,200**	**305**	**3,420,000**
Central	32,500	32,500	610	19,840,000	**36,000**	**36,000**	**585**	**21,060,000**
Northeast	900	900	450	405,000	**800**	**800**	**400**	**320,000**
E. Central	109,000	109,000	570	62,180,000	**110,000**	**110,000**	**575**	**63,200,000**
Southeast	11,500	11,500	630	7,250,000	**12,000**	**12,000**	**600**	**7,200,000**
STATE TOTAL	165,000	165,000	565	93,225,000	**170,000**	**170,000**	**560**	**95,200,000**

County Rankings, 1999 Crop Year: Top 100 Counties*, Based on Production

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
1	**WA**	**Grant**	**44,000**	**44,000**	**590**	**25,955,000**	**6.04**	**6.04**
2	**WA**	**Franklin**	**42,000**	**42,000**	**545**	**22,885,000**	**5.32**	**11.36**
3	ID	Bingham	64,000	63,600	315	20,044,000	4.66	16.03
4	**WA**	**Benton**	**31,400**	**31,400**	**605**	**19,007,000**	**4.42**	**20.45**
5	ID	Cassia	34,000	33,800	390	13,182,000	3.07	23.51
6	**WA**	**Adams**	**19,000**	**19,000**	**610**	**11,585,000**	**2.70**	**26.21**
7	ID	Madison	38,500	38,200	295	11,270,000	2.62	28.83
8	ID	Power	34,000	33,800	332	11,232,000	2.61	31.44
9	WI	Portage	26,000	25,700	425	10,876,000	2.53	33.97
10	ID	Minidoka	28,000	27,800	370	10,286,000	2.39	36.37
11	ID	Fremont	33,000	32,800	310	10,168,000	2.37	38.73
12	ID	Jefferson	30,000	29,900	315	9,419,000	2.19	40.92
13	CO	Alamosa	26,500	26,300	345	9,105,000	2.12	43.04
14	ID	Bonneville	32,000	31,800	280	8,905,000	2.07	45.11
15	OR	Umatilla	16,000	15,800	555	8,773,000	2.04	47.15
16	OR	Morrow	15,300	15,200	561	8,530,000	1.98	49.14
17	CO	Rio Grande	24,400	24,400	320	7,835,000	1.82	50.96
18	**WA**	**Walla Walla**	**12,000**	**12,000**	**600**	**7,200,000**	**1.68**	**52.64**
19	ND	Walsh	39,700	38,600	178	6,876,000	1.60	54.24
20	CO	Saguache	20,300	20,300	335	6,820,000	1.59	55.82
21	WI	Waushara	15,700	15,600	435	6,777,000	1.58	57.40
22	ID	Twin Falls	16,200	16,200	395	6,400,000	1.49	58.89
23	ND	Pembina	31,500	30,400	198	6,010,000	1.40	60.29
24	ID	Jerome	15,000	14,900	388	5,778,000	1.34	61.63
25	WI	Adams	11,300	11,100	450	5,017,000	1.17	62.80
26	ID	Elmore	9,400	9,400	503	4,730,000	1.10	63.90
27	OR	Malheur	10,500	10,500	440	4,620,000	1.07	64.97
28	MI	Montcalm	13,200	13,100	340	4,450,000	1.04	66.01
29	WI	Langlade	11,900	11,800	335	3,971,000	0.92	66.93
30	ND	Grand Forks	18,000	11,700	294	3,439,000	0.80	67.73
31	ID	Canyon	7,500	7,500	453	3,400,000	0.79	68.52
32	ID	Gooding	8,200	8,200	400	3,280,000	0.76	69.29
33	OR	Klamath	7,000	6,900	451	3,115,000	0.72	70.01
34	ID	Owyhee	6,000	6,000	470	2,820,000	0.66	70.67
35	**WA**	**Lincoln**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**555**	**2,775,000**	**0.65**	**71.31**
36	ND	Kidder	7,000	6,800	394	2,682,000	0.62	71.94
37	NM	San Juan	6,600	6,600	380	2,508,000	0.58	72.52
38	**WA**	**Skagit**	**8,200**	**8,200**	**305**	**2,500,000**	**0.58**	**73.10**
39	ND	Grand Forks	6,600	6,200	389	2,412,000	0.56	73.66
40	ID	Lincoln	6,000	6,000	383	2,300,000	0.54	74.20
41	MN	Sherburne	5,300	5,100	370	1,887,000	0.44	74.64
42	AZ	Maricopa	6,000	5,600	335	1,875,600	0.44	75.07
43	MI	St. Joseph	5,800	5,750	320	1,850,000	0.43	75.50
44	CO	Costilla	4,900	4,900	350	1,720,000	0.40	75.90
45	ID	Caribou	6,000	5,900	280	1,650,000	0.38	76.29
46	ID	Bannock	4,500	4,500	350	1,575,000	0.37	76.65
47	ID	Teton	7,000	7,000	220	1,540,000	0.36	77.01
48	OR	Baker	3,000	2,900	455	1,319,000	0.31	77.32
49	MT	Gallatin	3,850	3,850	340	1,301,000	0.30	77.62
50	MN	Morrison	3,000	2,900	445	1,290,500	0.30	77.92

County Rankings, 1999 Crop Year: Top 100 Counties*, Based on Production

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
51	WI	Juneau	3,300	3,200	405	1,290,000	0.30	78.22
52	MI	Bay	3,800	3,600	305	1,100,000	0.26	78.48
53	ND	McHenry	3,200	2,800	367	1,028,000	0.24	78.72
54	ND	Grand Forks	11,400	5,500	187	1,027,000	0.24	78.96
55	CO	Weld	3,500	3,300	305	1,005,000	0.23	79.19
56	**WA**	**Klickitat**	**1,800**	**1,800**	**550**	**990,000**	**0.23**	**79.42**
57	ND	Ransom	2,800	2,700	363	980,000	0.23	79.65
58	MI	Mecosta	2,500	2,500	390	970,000	0.23	79.87
59	MI	Tuscola	2,900	2,900	305	880,000	0.20	80.08
60	MN	Todd	2,200	2,100	415	871,500	0.20	80.28
61	**WA**	**Yakima**	**2,200**	**2,200**	**385**	**847,000**	**0.20**	**80.48**
62	NC	Pasquotank	4,300	4,200	195	820,300	0.19	80.67
63	**WA**	**Whatcom**	**2,500**	**2,500**	**310**	**775,000**	**0.18**	**80.85**
64	MT	Lake	2,550	2,550	300	763,000	0.18	81.03
65	NM	Curry	2,500	2,500	290	725,000	0.17	81.20
66	CO	Yuma	1,900	1,900	375	715,000	0.17	81.36
67	WI	Waupaca	2,000	2,000	360	715,000	0.17	81.53
68	ND	Dickey	1,900	1,800	391	704,000	0.16	81.69
69	ID	Blaine	2,000	2,000	350	700,000	0.16	81.85
70	MN	Polk	11,000	4,600	150	690,000	0.16	82.02
71	PA	Cambria	3,100	3,030	224	677,340	0.16	82.17
72	PA	Erie	3,000	2,900	225	651,750	0.15	82.32
73	ID	Butte	2,500	2,500	260	650,000	0.15	82.48
74	AZ	Pinal	2,100	2,100	297	624,000	0.15	82.62
75	MI	Presque Isle	2,500	2,500	250	620,000	0.14	82.77
76	WI	Marathon	2,000	2,000	310	620,000	0.14	82.91
77	ND	Sargent	1,800	1,700	351	597,000	0.14	83.05
78	NC	Camden	3,000	2,900	200	580,900	0.14	83.18
79	WI	Oneida	2,100	2,100	275	575,000	0.13	83.32
80	ND	Sargent	1,400	1,400	391	548,000	0.13	83.44
81	ND	Emmons	1,600	1,500	362	543,000	0.13	83.57
82	OR	Jefferson	1,200	1,200	450	540,000	0.13	83.70
83	MN	Freeborn	2,900	2,500	215	537,500	0.13	83.82
84	NM	Roosevelt	1,600	1,600	300	480,000	0.11	83.93
85	ID	Payette	1,000	1,000	480	480,000	0.11	84.05
86	CO	Morgan	1,500	1,500	320	480,000	0.11	84.16
87	NC	Pamlico	2,500	2,400	195	469,000	0.11	84.27
88	NC	Washington	2,550	2,500	185	463,200	0.11	84.37
89	NC	Tyrrell	2,250	2,200	210	462,700	0.11	84.48
90	AL	Jackson	1,900	1,800	250	450,000	0.10	84.59
91	ID	Ada	1,000	1,000	420	420,000	0.10	84.68
92	ND	Towner	1,700	1,500	261	392,000	0.09	84.77
93	OR	Union	800	800	445	356,000	0.08	84.86
94	ND	La Moure	1,000	1,000	342	342,000	0.08	84.94
95	NJ	Salem	1,300	1,300	258	335,000	0.08	85.02
96	ND	Traill	2,800	1,600	208	333,000	0.08	85.09
97	OR	Washington	900	900	370	333,000	0.08	85.17
98	ND	Foster	1,200	1,100	289	318,000	0.07	85.24
99	ND	Benson	1,100	1,100	286	315,000	0.07	85.32
100	MT	Broadwater	950	930	340	314,000	0.07	85.39

* *All states do not estimate potatoes at the county level. States which ranked in the top ten in potato production but did not estimate county-level data in 1999 included California and Maine.*

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